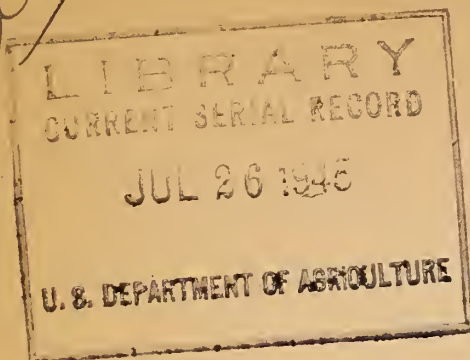


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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF DISTRIBUTION  
150 Broadway  
New York, 7, N. Y.



"THE AGRICULTURAL FRONT"

(For Immediate Broadcast)

July.....1944

July on the "Agricultural Front" brings the one-month anniversary of the invasion of Europe by allied forces. To most of us, the month has meant increased anxiety about our men over there. We all want to help them achieve Victory as soon as possible, so that they can come back to the safety of their homes and a peace-time life.

There's one excellent way to speed victory. That's by buying War Bonds. War Bonds are the best possible investment for every American...and this includes farmers.

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Bond buying aids in the war against inflation. Uncontrolled inflation is a greater threat to agriculture than to any other group in the country. During and after the last war, farm prices went lower and stayed down longer than any other prices. Right now in some areas, prices of farm land are going sky high. That means that the man who come back from the war and wants to buy a farm, is going to find that prices are way out of his reach. If he does succeed in scraping together enough for the land, and farm commodity prices go down, then he will find himself faced with a debt he can't possibly pay.

Paying boom prices for land can mean the same sort of ruin to any farmer. Naturally, with farm incomes high, it's a temptation to invest in farm



land. But you'll do a far greater service to yourself and to your community if you resist that temptation, and invest your increased profits in war bonds. You'll be preventing inflation due to wild land buying... and you'll be helping your soldier to come home faster. Did you know by the way, that your county may have a bond quota which will just buy a B--29 Super Fortress for work over Tokyo? A B--29 costs \$600,000. Invest in War Bonds...help meet your country quota, and may be you'll be helping to buy the largest bomber in the world.

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Here's another item on the collection of milkweed for life jackets. The navy needs a buoyant, water-proof fiber to replace unobtainable kapok in life jackets...and milkweed just fills the bill! The government has asked for a million and a half pounds of milkweed floss this year. All of it will have to come from wild stands.

Here are the names of two State Leaders of the milkweed floss collection campaign. In New York, the State Leader is Ralph M. Hutchinson, of the New York State College of Forestry in Syracuse. The State Leader in Pennsylvania is G. Harry Brown, 229 Woodlawn Drive, State College.

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I've recently received some good news about fertilizer prospects. You'll be interested to know that an increased supply of fertilizer will probably be available for the coming year, beginning this July 1st. There will be more nitrogen than was actually used this year...that is...about the same amount as would have been used if there had been more nitrogen available at the beginning of the season. The estimated minimum requirement for nitrogen is at least 675 thousand tons. In order to meet that require-



ment, at least one million short tons of Chilean nitrate must be imported.

The prospects for super-phosphate are good too. In round numbers, there will probably be about 25 percent more than last year...that is, in terms of phosphoric acid. That figure is conditioned, though, by the date of completion of new production facilities, and by the amount of operating labor that can be obtained. As far as potash is concerned, there will probably be 21 percent more than previously, and that's pretty good if you recall that potash was short this year.

You farmers can help a great deal to make these fertilizer possibilities come through. Order early, accept early deliveries, and do as much of your own hauling as possible. That way, you can rest easier, and have a pretty good idea of how much fertilizer you can get this year.

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Here's a bulletin about the new distribution plan for army trucks. Surplus army trucks will be distributed to farmers through a new set-up worked out by the War Food Administration and the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department. It is estimated that more than 5000 trucks will be available for distribution. That's not enough to meet the transportation shortage, but it will help, if the trucks are placed where they'll help the most. This means that only farmers who need trucks very badly will get them. Your State and County Triple A offices will be handling applications... apply to them if your need for a truck is critical, and they will see that your bid is considered.

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Here's a story on the shipment of seeds overseas. Fifteen thousand pounds of seeds have been shipped to American prisoners of war. That amount of seed is enough to supply fresh vegetables for a maximum of 400,000 soldiers. These fresh vegetables themselves are a wonderful contribution, of course...but equally as important is the satisfaction of those American men when they grow vegetables from seeds that grew in their own backyards at home.

But those seeds shipped to our prisoners of war make up a small part of the total amount that's gone to our allies and to our armed forces abroad...

and more recently to the liberated areas. Russia and the United Kingdom have taken about 15 million pounds of our seeds during the last twelve months. And other allies have taken amounts...small and large..... Shipping seeds saves cargo space. For example, if we would have delivered

all the 18 million pounds of vegetable seeds that we have shipped since last July at one time, to one port, it could all have gone on one 10 thousand ton cargo boat with some space left over. On the other hand, if we were to ship all the food grown from those seeds, we would need all the available space on almost a thousand ships of the same capacity. Cargo ships mean manpower, and all that space could be used right now to good advantage for men and munitions.

And more than that, seeds provide destitute peoples with a means of building up their own land and their own food supplies again, to the point where we no longer need to send them aid.

Quite a while before the war, the seed grower's industry and representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture had been planning for such an emergency. Many people were surprised to read in trade journals before the war, that California farmers were beginning to produce



cauliflower seeds. All over the country, other seeds were being harvested, When war came to us, the foresight of those growers and Department of Agriculture men paid off. We were able to supply our allies with the seeds they needed so desperately...and keep an abundant quantity here for ourselves

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A note about the use of Urea in dairy rations. During the last twelve months even the all-time record supplies of protein feed have been inadequate to meet all demands. This has focused the attention of research workers of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and others on the possibility of feeding synthetic urea to dairy cattle to meet their protein requirements.

Synthetic urea which resembles fine stock salt is made from coal, air, and water. It contains no protein itself but it does furnish the nitrogen needed to make protein. The bacteria in the paunch of the cow or sheep, or other ruminating animals, combine the nitrogen of the urea with other feed constituents to make protein in much the same way that plants take nitrates from the soil to make protein. Unlike ruminants, hogs, and poultry cannot use urea to synthesize protein in the body.

In an 80--day feeding experiment recently completed by T.E. Woodward and J.B. Shepherd of the Bureau of Dairy Industry, cows receiving oat hay, corn silage, and a grain mixture consisting of corn, oats, bran, and bonemeal produced as much milk when urea was added to the grain mixture as when soybean meal was added, each group averaging about 37 pounds per cow per day.

Urea is useful for many purposes during wartime, including the manufacture of plastics and fertilizers, and although increasing quantities are being released for feeding purposes, the supply is still too small to be much of a factor in the immediate feed situation.



The limited quantity now being made available for feed is being allocated largely to feed manufacturers to replace part of the high protein concentrates they normally use in commercial feed mixtures.

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My last item deals with...Butter set-asides. The butter set-aside for government purchase in July and August was lowered by amendment to WFO 26. During July, the government will take 45% of all butter produced, and during August 30%. Cheddar Cheese set-aside was continued at 60 percent for July and August by amendment to WFO 15. The set-aside reduction continues the War Food Administration's policy of maintaining fairly constant supplies for civilian use by providing for Government needs during the season of heaviest production. Relatively heavy set-asides of butter and cheddar cheese in the peak production period means that civilian supplies remain about the same the year round.

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Once again, milkweed collection, seed production, early ordering and deliveries of fertilizer are all important jobs farmers can do to speed victory. But by far, the most important right now is the continued buying of War Bonds. Don't speculate in the high-priced land...make your increased profits mean a real contribution toward shortening the war and bringing our men home soon. Celebrate July Fourth by the purchase of another war bond.

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